

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, UN, US, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN PERMREP'S COMMENTS ON CANAL NEGOTIATIONS

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS DEALING WITH THE PANAMA CANAL FROM
PANAMANIAN PERMREP BOYD'S STATEMENT IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL
ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6 ON THE COMORO ISLANDS

QUOTE

1. BUT, IN VIEW OF WHAT WAS SAID BY THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF FRANCE, AMBASSADOR DE GUIRINGAUD, IN CONNECTION WITH
THE SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL HELD IN PANAMA,
I SHOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT I LISTENED VERY CLOSELY TO HIS
WORDS. HE ATTEMPTED IN EFFECT TO DRAW A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE
MATTER WHICH WE DEALT WITH TODAY IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL
IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMOROS AND THE SITUATION WHICH PREVAILED
IN PANAMA IN MARCH 1973, WHEN THE UNITED STATES CAST A VETO ON
A DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH, HOWEVER, RECEIVED 13 VOTES
IN FAVOUR, WITH ONE ABSTENTION, THAT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

2. LET US BE QUITE CLEAR. WHEN THE COUNCIL VISITED PANAMA,
IT DID SO TO HOLD A SERIES OF SPECIAL MEETINGS IN ORDER TO
CONSIDER MATTERS RELATING TO THE MAINTENANCE AND THE STRENGTHENING
OF PEACE IN LATIN AMERICA. IN CONTRAST TO THE PARTICULAR
CASE WE ARE NOW CONSIDERING, THE COUNCIL DID NOT VISIT PANAMA
TO CONSIDER A DISPUTE. IN PANAMA NO REPRESENTATIVE CLAIMED

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THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT ENTITLED TO CAST A VETO. AND SO

I DO NOT THINK WE CAN CONCLUDE FROM THIS THAT THERE IS
A PRECEDENT WHICH CAN BE RESORTED TO BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF
FRANCE UNDER THE PRETEXT THAT THIS IS A SIMILAR SITUATION.

3. I, TOO, RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE VERY SERIOUS DIFFERENCES
INDEED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE GOVERN-
MENT OF PANAMA ON MATTERS RELATING TO QUESTIONS VITAL TO PANAMA,
SUCH AS THAT OF A NEW CANAL TREATY WHICH SHOULD ONCE AND FOR
ALL ERADICATE THE COLONIAL ENCLAVE WHICH CUTS MY COUNTRY IN
TWO AND WHICH PREVENTS US FROM ACHIEVING OUR UNITY AND TERR-
ITORIAL INTEGRITY. BUT I SHOULD LIKE TO REPEAT TO AMBASSADOR DE
BUIRINGAUD THAT WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO HIM ON THAT OCCASION
FOR FRANCE'S SUPPORT IN DEFENDING THIS POSITION OF
PRINCIPLE, AND THAT ON THAT OCCASION THE WHOLE QUESTION
REGARDING THE MAINTENANCE AND STRENGTHENING OF PEACE
IN LATIN AMERICA WAS BEING REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED. AT
THE TIME THAT WAS NOT ONE OF THE QUESTIONS UNDER ARTICLE
27 (3). THEREFORE, TODAY'S RECORDS SHOULD REFLECT
THE SERIOUS DOUBTS THAT MANY OF US HERE HARBOUR REGARDING
FRANCE'S RIGHT TO CAST A VETO IN THE MATTER OF THE COMOROS TODAY.

4. MR. BOYD (PANAMA) (INTERPRETATION FROM SPANISH):
TO CONCLUDE THIS DEBATE, I SHOULD LIKE TO SAY TO OUR FRIEND
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE THAT AT5#3 .3358,& 9* 5#3 3:74856
:97,:8) #3)\$ 8, 0,-,- 8, -4:# 1973 AT NO TIME DID ANY MEMBER
OF THE COUNCIL REQUEST THE PRESIDENT TO TAKE A STAND ON
THIS POINT IN ARTICLE 27.

AT THIS TIME, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF BENIN AND LIBYA AND
I ARE DRAWING ATTENTION TO THIS FACT, SO THAT IN FUTURE WHENEVER
SOMEONE SEEKS CLARIFICATION FROM THE CHAIR THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE
ABLE, AFTER A DEEP LEGAL ANALYSIS, TO TAKE A STAND ON THIS
POINT WHICH TODAY WAS INVOLVED US IN A DEBATE WHICH INDICATES
CLEARLY THAT THERE ARE VERY SERIOUS DOUBTS ON THE MATTER.
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